

CONTINUUM OF CARE REFORM UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 2017



“All children deserve to live with a committed, nurturing and permanent family that prepares youth for a successful transition into adulthood.”

The Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) draws together a series of existing and new reforms to our child welfare services program and was designed based on the understanding that children who must live apart from their biological parents do best when they are cared for in committed and nurturing family homes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS REPORT

- The Resource Family Approval (RFA) team has completed all 13 annual reviews of the Cohort 1 and 2 counties. A summary of the findings can be found starting on page five of this report.
- The evaluation of the Treatment Outcomes Package (TOP) and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tools has been completed. A final decision on the assessment tool selection is expected by October.
- Please see Attachment A for the most recent quarterly report produced by a joint effort between CDSS and DHCS on *Mental Health Services Utilization for Children/Youth in the Child Welfare System*.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS AND GUIDANCE TO STAKEHOLDERS

ENGAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Medi-Cal 101:

From December 2016 through May 2017, DHCS conducted a series of eight regional trainings on the Medi-Cal Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) program for group homes and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). Coordinated by the California Institute for Behavioral Health Solutions (CIBHS), and in partnership with CDSS, and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), these trainings reached a total of 895 participants from Redding to Riverside. Geared towards group homes, future Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs), and FFAs who are interested in becoming SMHS providers, these trainings provided an overview of the core elements of Medi-Cal SMHS; requirements that group homes, STRTPs, and FFAs must meet in order to become SMHS providers; an overview of the Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) service model; an overview of the STRTP mental health program approval; and an overview of local county contract process.

Medi-Cal Manual

On June 26, 2017, DHCS shared the [draft](#) of the third edition of the Medi-Cal Manual for Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), Intensive Home Based Services (IHBS), and TFC Services for Medi-Cal Beneficiaries for a 30-day stakeholder review and comment period. Feedback was requested by July 28, 2017. This edition of the manual includes content focused on TFC services, and removes previous lockouts regarding the provision of ICC and IHBS to children and youth residing in group homes or STRTPs. DHCS is reviewing all feedback, comments, and proposed edits provided by stakeholders and anticipates finalizing the manual in October 2017.

STRTP Mental Health Program Approval Protocol and Interim Regulations

On May 5, 2017, DHCS issued Mental Health Substance Use & Disorder Services (MHSUDS) Information Notice (IN) #17-016 regarding the Interim STRTP Mental Health Program Approval process. The IN includes the following attachments: 1) Draft STRTP Regulations; 2) Interim STRTP Mental Health Program Approval Protocol, and 3) the STRTP Mental Health Program Approval Application. DHCS has completed its review of the stakeholder input that was received during the 30-day comment period and plans to issue final documents in September 2017.

MHSUDS IN #17-016 and its enclosures can be found at the following websites/links:

- http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/PPQA%20Pages/Interim_Protocol_for_STRTP_Mental_Health%20Approval.pdf
- http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/PPQA%20Pages/DHCS-3131_STRTP_Mental_Health_Program_Approval_Application_Form.pdf
- http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/MH/Documents/PPQA%20Pages/Interim_STRTP_Mental_Health_Regulations_Draft.pdf

Resource Family Approval:

The RFA Team is working on creating new policy for areas that will be included in the next version of the Written Directives. Several of the areas are included in proposed legislation, AB 404 such as allowing a Resource Family to move from a county to an FFA or FFA to county while maintaining their approval.

CDSS hosts monthly statewide technical assistance calls. These calls were bi-weekly but have been reduced due to a decrease in questions being asked, although participation has remained steady with approximately 50 people calling each time. Counties, including child welfare agencies and probation departments, are able to call in and ask questions related to RFA policy.

RFA staff manages the RFA email box for technical assistance. Counties, FFAs and the public send questions, suggestions or requests for policy interpretations to this email box.

Technical Assistance Resource Family Approval (TARFA):

Supported by the Department and the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA), the TARFA meetings began in January 2017. They are held bi-monthly in six regional areas for all 58 counties. Attendees include child welfare services and probation staff responsible for approving and monitoring Resource Families. Since the January 2017 TARFA meeting, there has been a significant increase from county participation from the majority of the counties throughout the state. As we continue to hold these meetings, the counties have requested additional technical assistance and training from the Department, which has been provided over the past few months, in various areas related to the RFA standards, background checks, and due process.

Regional Information Transformation Exchange (RITE) Meetings:

CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, County Behavioral Health Directors Association (CBHDA), Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), California Institute for Behavioral Health Services, the Regional Training Academies, and Casey Family Programs are sponsoring the CCR meetings in the Northern, Bay, Central, Southern regions, as well as Los Angeles, in order to provide robust technical assistance at the local level. Initially these meeting were limited to state and county staff and now open to broader participation including youth, parents, providers, education, and judicial partners. Stakeholders are selected by the counties.

Bay Area RITE: October 13, 2017, San Francisco

L.A. RITE was held on July 17, 2017 and will reconvene in early 2018

The primary topics include Therapeutic Foster Care, Level of Care Protocol, Child and Family Teaming (CFT), Youth With Complex Needs, Assembly Bill 1299, and Interagency Collaboration and Communication.

Claiming instructions for CFTs

DHCS has drafted an MHSUDS IN regarding claiming for CFTs. The IN is in internal review and DHCS expects to issue the IN by the end of September 2017.

Assembly Bill 1299

DHCS and CDSS released a joint MHSUDS IN/All County Letter (ACL) [#17-032/17-77](#) to provide initial policy guidance on AB 1299 implementation. This IN/ACL provides information regarding the conditions for presumptive transfer as well as the exceptions for which a waiver of presumptive transfer may be requested and information regarding the role of the CFT

in this process. This IN/ACL includes feedback from the bill's sponsor, CBHDA, CWDA, CPOC, and other key stakeholders. DHCS and CDSS hosted a webinar on August 17, 2017 to provide an overview of this IN/ACL. Over 500 people joined the webinar. DHCS and CDSS continue to work with stakeholders and will issue subsequent policy guidance regarding AB 1299 implementation in the coming months.

THE CHILD AND FAMILY TEAMING (CFT) PROCESS

- CDSS has written an ACL that provides formal step-by-step instructions on how to record CFTs in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) and is presented in the context of the policy outlined in ACL 16-84 and ACL 17-84. CDSS has found this approach to be an effective way to ensure consistency in policy, social work, and probation practices, and data entry and reporting practices by counties. Anticipated release is September 2017. Until its release, CFTs are being tracked using claims data.
- CDSS is releasing a second CFT policy letter, ACL 17-84, that includes Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and provides information that covers a range of CFT topics, including but not limited to, meeting timing and frequency, team roles, team-based case planning, and information sharing, and confidentiality. Anticipated release is September 2017.
- During the summer, CDSS released County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 17/18-09 which provided claiming instructions to county probation departments for CFT activities for youth in detention. The letter was presented in the context of the policy outlined in ACL 16-84 and ACL 17-84.
- CDSS leads a project with CFT specialists that are developing a state-approved CFT curriculum that has fidelity to the Core Practice Model. The CFT workgroup is comprised of CDSS representatives and CFT specialists, and the workgroup is meeting regularly to develop and refine curriculum. Anticipated release is December 2017.
- CDSS and the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice at UC Davis are leading a CFT workgroup to develop curriculum for the 0-5 age group and is meeting regularly.
- Three different brochures have been developed within CDSS to inform youth, parents, and professionals about the CFT process. All three brochures align with CFT requirements and guidelines and provide guidance specific to the needs of each group. These brochures will be posted to CDSS' websites and will also be published and disseminated statewide. CDSS worked closely with youth partners at the Youth Engagement Project and California Youth Connection, Parent Partners, and other stakeholders throughout this process. Anticipated release is September 2017.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Harder+Company Community Researchers have completed their qualitative and user-experience focused evaluation of the Treatment Outcomes Package (TOP) and Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tools. They presented their findings to CWDA on September 14th. A decision regarding the chosen statewide assessment tool is expected by October.

HOME BASED FAMILY CARE (HBFC) RATE STRUCTURE AND LEVEL OF CARE (LOC) PROTOCOL

Home Based Family Care Rate (HBFC) Rate Structure

The new HBFC Level of Care (LOC) rate structure was designed to support positive outcomes for children in home-based family settings. Phase I implemented on January 1, 2017, which eliminated age as a determining factor in the basic foster care rate and standardized the basic rates paid for children/youth placed in approved, certified, licensed foster family homes or relatives and Resource Families. Effective January 1, 2017, eligible cases received the LOC 1 (Basic Level) of the HBFC rate structure, see [ACL 16-79](#) and [ACL 16-19E](#). Phase II is scheduled to implement December 1, 2017 and will include implementation of all components of the HBFC rate structure: Basic Level Rate, LOC 2, LOC 3 and LOC 4 (see [ACL 17-11](#)). The Department continues to engage in bi-weekly technical assistance calls regarding Phase II implementation with consortia and county staff as well as the County Welfare Directors Association.

LOC Protocol

CDSS, in collaboration with the UC Davis Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice and the LOC County Small Workgroup, have begun the Statewide Regional LOC Trainings for Trainers (T4T). Below are the scheduled dates and locations. This training is designed for County Social Worker and Probation Officers which is by invitation only.

1. August 30, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Sacramento
2. August 31, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Bay Area
3. September 6, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Redding
4. September 12, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Fresno
5. September 27, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Los Angeles
6. September 28, 2017	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Los Angeles

The LOC Rate Protocol Overview Webinar is available on the Continuum of Care Reform website. For more information or questions, please contact CCR@dss.ca.gov.

RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA)

- An All County Information Notice (ACIN) is being drafted for county child welfare agencies to inform them of the out-of-county protocol CWDA agreed to abide by. County probation departments shall follow one of three options outlined in the RFA Written Directives. Anticipated release is October 2017.
- The RFA team has completed all 13 annual reviews of the Cohort 1 and 2 counties. This was the second round of reviews for Cohort 1. Randomly generated sample case lists for each county are being utilized. The random samples have yielded a majority of cases reviewed belonging to relatives with placements of children. This is a positive indicator that relatives are being considered at the forefront in the RFA process.
- The RFA team is still participating in regional CWDA meetings across the state to discuss implementation; what is working and what has been challenging. The meetings have changed to quarterly instead of monthly. The RFA team is also facilitating TARFA meetings on a monthly basis with counties. These meetings are designed for the field staff and managers to attend.
- The new Administrative Actions Record System (AARS) is active for counties to use. Counties can search and upload administrative actions to the database.
- The RFA Team continues to review and approve FFA program statements and provide feedback to the agencies on their plans for implementation of RFA.

RFA Annual Reviews

The implementation of the RFA program was, and continues to be, the foundational basis for CCR. The child welfare leadership and staff of the early implementing counties should be recognized for their willingness to partner with CDSS to help pilot one of the largest reforms undertaken in the child welfare system in many decades.

The Welfare and Institutions Code Section 16519.5 requires CDSS to annually review a sample of Resource Families in counties for compliance with the RFA standards and Written Directives. The purpose of the review is twofold: 1) to assess the progress and effectiveness of the county's implementation of the RFA program, and 2) to ensure that the health, safety and well-being needs of children, youth, and nonminor dependents in out-of-home care are being met within the county's implementation and administration of the RFA program. The on-site reviews were designed to learn the strengths, challenges, and barriers of the RFA program from the early implementing county's perspective and obtain feedback and recommendations for systemic improvements to the RFA program.

Strengths

- Addition of training for all applicants
- Enhanced, supportive relationship between RFA social worker and family; relatives recognize value of RFA and appreciate connection to, and supportive services from, county child welfare services agency arising from the interpersonal contact during psychosocial interviews and home visits
- County partnerships with community based organizations, training providers, and foster family agencies to develop coordinated delivery of RFA throughout the county
- Increased usage of Team Decision Meetings (TDM) with identified and interested relatives/nonrelative extended family members (NREFMs) to facilitate, prioritize and strategize efficient use of family and county resources in order to support and meet the needs of child(ren) or nonminor dependents while under the jurisdiction of the county

Barriers

- Running two tracks, RFA and licensing; balancing workload between monitoring and/or converting legacy foster homes and recruiting and approving RFA applicants
- Combining existing relative approval, licensing, and guardianship/adoptive staff in order to blend knowledge and expertise to implement RFA while overcoming staff resistance to change, not only programmatically but psychologically; infusing RFA intent and philosophy into work processes and staff attitudes; unintentional default to, or reliance on, existing licensing work processes and forms
- Establishing coordination of work processes between Emergency Response and RFA social workers while ensuring placement and approval functions remain separate
- Miscellaneous county-specific requirements for approval that supersede RFA Written Directives
 - Fire extinguishers
 - First aid kits
 - Plant removal
 - Well water testing
 - Animal licensure/vaccinations
 - Birth/Marriage/Divorce documents
 - Dental exams
 - Increased training hours
- Business and operational barriers
 - County specific union issues
 - Organizational restructuring and realignment, linear processing models
 - Board of supervisor approval constraints
 - Fiscal limitation – no Title IV-E funding until approved
 - Lack of trained and/or experienced in-house staff to conduct psychosocial assessments

Creative Strategies

During the course of the early implementing county reviews, CDSS found examples of innovative strategies designed to extend the RFA program to all applicants and minimize barriers for access and timely approvals.

- Development of unique training models to accommodate applicant schedules and demographics: compressed training options, evening/weekend options, fast track schedules, multilingual and/or monolingual options; creating opportunities at training to conduct other components of RFA process, i.e., portable/onsite fingerprinting services, TB testing and/or health screenings, onsite childcare and provision of food and beverages, interviews.
- Creative utilization of Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention Services (FPRRS) monies to support families and placements:
 - Creation of intern program using local college students to act as liaison between applicant/resource family and RFA social worker and/or the hiring of experienced foster parents to act as mentor or ombudsman to applicant or approved family (reducing workload for RFA worker while fostering connection between applicant or resource family and the County)

- Creation of Resource Family Support Unit which facilitates the provision of in-home parenting and behavior therapies, purchase of household items, i.e., beds, linens, smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, reimbursement for normalizing activities, babysitting and respite care reimbursements, and transportation subsidies
- The development of county created/contracted RFA databases that monitors and tracks the application pipeline and provides capacity for various components of RFA process to be completed on-line
- Development of family-friendly collateral RFA materials (folders filled with application materials, community resource brochures, contact sheets, tote bags, calendars, etc.), and Appreciation Events (bowling nights, picnics, welcoming ceremonies, adult-only holiday party)

Changes (+/-) from first to second reviews of Cohort 1 counties

- (+) Increased RFA positions and dedicated clerical staff, on-call shifts, after hours RFA staff, and the creation of a work shift (1 pm to 10 pm) in order to work with families outside of typical business hours
- (+) Movement toward psychosocial assessment component being brought back in-house
- (+) Increased usage of emergency placement prior to approval for compelling reasons
- (+) General improvements in approval timeframes
- (+) Stability in terms of relative placements despite initial negative perception of RFA process
- (+) Reduction in training hours if county determined that it negatively impacted approval timeframes
- (-) Some continued reliance on licensing perspective, and licensing language embedded in RFA marketing literature, forms, and processes, attributed, most likely, to the legacy licensing foster homes that require monitoring and servicing under the existing licensing regulations
- (-) Slow, but steady, improvements in minimizing child/relative-specific and biographical Written Reports
- (-) Continuing lack of funding for relative emergency placements; some early implementers initially used county funds to support relative families but discontinued the practice due to non-sustainability
- (-) Need for statewide discussion on how to salvage applicants who go through process and withdraw if identified child is reunified or not placed with applicant

RFA Survey Results

Beginning in February 2016, counties have been responsible for administering the RFA Process – Family Satisfaction Survey (RFA Survey). Immediately following a family's approval, denial or withdrawal from the RFA approval process, the county provides CDSS with each family's e-mail address or a paper copy of the survey to mail in if they do not have access to a computer. The families are emailed a unique link to the survey via Survey Monkey.

Since the Department began offering an incentive for the RFA survey in August 2016, we have received 235 surveys, with 27 newly received surveys since the last report. The incentive has resulted in an increase in the number of surveys returned. The survey results are only reflective of early implementing counties. An ACIN is currently being developed to inform counties about the availability of the survey statewide. Anticipated release is October 2017.

Of the 235 respondents, the majority (83.5%) have been approved. Only 2% have been denied and 14.4% have withdrawn from the process. About two-thirds (69%) of respondents initiated the process to care for a child they already knew and a little over one-half (51.3%) of the respondents have taken a child in as an emergency placement. (Note: surveys have only been received from families in 7 of the 13 early implementing counties. Not all counties are providing emails to the Department). After issuing the ACIN, CDSS plans to reach out to non-responsive counties to provide technical assistance.

Breakdown of surveys received by county:

Total number of responses: 208

Butte	7.8%
Kings	21.7%
Los Angeles	0.4%
Orange	43%
San Luis Obispo	20.9%
Stanislaus	5.2%
Ventura	0.9%

Generally, respondents were satisfied with the RFA process. Respondents were asked seven questions related to their experience going through the process and asked to rate their agreement with the statement on a scale of 1-6. Strongly disagree was rated 1 and strongly agree was rated 6.

The area respondents were most dissatisfied with was the length of the RFA process. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that “based on information I was told by staff, the RFA process took longer than expected.” Although some respondents believe that the process is taking longer than expected, 19% state the RFA process is easy with only 6% stating it is difficult. This indicates that even though the process may take a long time, it is not necessarily a cumbersome process for the applicant. Additionally, 69% agreed or strongly agreed they would recommend the RFA process to other people who wanted to be caregivers. Even though respondents were somewhat dissatisfied with the length of the process, the willingness to recommend the process to others indicates that they have an understanding or respect for the value of what the process requires. It is possible that more communication at the start of the process could help to mitigate dissatisfaction with the length of the process.

Seventy-one percent (71%) of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the orientation prepared them for the RFA process. In regards to pre-approval training, 61% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the training helped prepare them to care for children.

The majority of respondents (64%) felt they were treated with respect during the process. Additionally, 74% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that staff “listened to my concerns” and said county RFA staff “clearly stated what needed to be done to continue” the process.

RFA Relative Placements

Concerns have been raised by advocacy organizations regarding the increased, more rigorous requirements of the RFA process and the possibility that it could result in a loss of relative placements. However, anecdotal evidence from county case reviews leads us to believe that this may not be the case. With recent changes made to CWS/CMS to include other the Resource Family Home facility type, the Department is now able to identify relative placements within Resource Families, and this issue will continue to be tracked in future reports as CCR implementation expands. The ability to track NREFM resource families has only just recently been enabled in CWS/CMS. As NREFMs have always been reported with relative data, this should increase the number of “relative” RFA homes once the data is available for use. This data will not be available until around November 2017.

As of April 1, 2017, approximately 70% of the children placed in Resource Family Homes were placed with relatives. RFA data prior to January 1, 2017, the date of statewide CCR implementation, consists primarily of the early implementing counties and only county RFA homes (not FFA RFA homes). Since statewide implementation began in January, there are significant increases in both the relative and non-relative categories in child welfare. There has been a 300% change in RFA relative placements and a 213% change in RFA non-relative placements from 2016 to 2017.

Point in Time placements in Resource Family Homes:

	April 1, 2015		April 1, 2016		April 1, 2017	
Relationship	Child Welfare	Probation	Child Welfare	Probation	Child Welfare	Probation
RFA Relative	217	0	610	2	2,441	4
RFA Non-Relative	107	0	321	0	1,006	0
TOTAL	324	0	931	2	3,447	4

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND SUPPORT

To date, there have been no updates regarding the activities of counties since the report of February 2017. Per statute, counties will begin reporting on the activities of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 16-17 this month. CDSS will be collecting data on SFY 16-17 via an online survey conducted through Survey Monkey. ACIN I-53-17 was released on August 21, 2017, announcing the survey, which will be open through the month of September and will collect the data items specified in the report of June 2017. Per statute, counties will also be submitting plans for activities of FY 17-18, which will also be collected by CDSS via Survey Monkey. ACL 17-90 was released on August 29, 2017, announcing and providing instructions for this survey, which will also be open through September.

AUTOMATION

The following chart reflects changes to CWS/CMS, licensing systems, and payments systems needed to implement CCR.

System	Current Status	Next Step	Next Step Due Date
SAWS	Phase 1 has been completed and implemented in all three of the SAWS	Workgroups are ongoing to finalize the policy for Phase 2 automation and implementation. All SAWS are working to program the system changes with ability to process November 2017 payments	December 2017
Administrative Action Records System (AARS)	System name was changed from LAARS to AARS due to the actuality that we are now capturing more data than just licensing AA's. AARS went live to all users on 7/13/2017. Currently 864 users have registered; this includes both State and County staff. Phase-2 enhancements have started and are now in Sprint-2. Enhancements include extract of data uploaded to the databases.	Continue with development of the enhancements that have been identified by the customer as being high priority. Develop a Scope of Work to hire a contractor to complete the requirements identified for Phase-3 of this project.	September 2017
CWS/CMS	Release 7.7 was successfully deployed into production on July 8, 2017. Release 7.7 included the addition of the NREFM care giver relationship type, ability to document IPC approval for STRTPs and the addition of Temporary Shelter Care	Initiate the Release 8.1 project kickoff to begin the development of the CCR Phase 3 code changes for the CWS/CMS application. This release will complete the requested CWS/CMS changes to support RFA / CCR.	January 2018

	facility type. Release 8.1 is undergoing sizing and the statement of work is tentatively scheduled to be finalized and approved by August 25, 2017. Release 8.1 is tentatively scheduled for deployment into production on January 6, 2018, and includes additional Background Check types for RFA, the ability to document when Mental Health needs meet the definition of medical necessity, and improvements to ease data entry and more accurately record history when existing licensed homes go through the RFA process.		
Child Welfare Digital Services (CWDS)	Case Management Module is in production. Waiting for Department decision regarding statewide assessment tool.	CWDS will work with CDSS to plan New System functionality that limits or prevents duplicative data entry for the county social workers.	TBD

TRANSITION OF PROVIDERS TO THE CCR SERVICE MODEL

The following chart shows the total number of Program Statements received and approved for FFA RFA and the number of applications received and licenses issued for new FFAs, STRTPs, and Temporary Shelter Care Facilities (TSCFs), as of September 1, 2017.

Regional Office	Foster Family Agencies Resource Family Approval		Foster Family Agency Licensure		Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs		Temporary Shelter Care Facilities	
	Number of Program Statements Received for RFA	Number of Program Statements Approved for RFA	Number of Applications Submitted	Number of Licenses Issued	Number of Applications Submitted	Number of Licenses Issued	Number of Applications Submitted	Number of Licenses Issued
Sacramento	38	32	4	2	26	1	0	0
San Jose	50	41	1	1	53	9	0	0
Riverside	51	47	11	9	5	0	0	0
Monterey Park	52	45	12	7	2	0	0	0
Culver City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	7	0	0
Total	191	165	28	19	108	17	0	0

Note: The number of STRTP applications submitted represents the number of facilities requesting licensure.

BARRIERS TO ACCREDITATION FOR VENDORIZED FOSTER FAMILY AGENCIES

The Developmental Disability FFA Collaborative reached out to the Department in a December 2016 letter to express their concerns regarding barriers to accreditation they face. The letter described the unique set of challenges faced by agencies serving a population of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the state. A summary of those challenges include the following:

- These agencies are not adoptions agencies, but rather treatment homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The high cost of accreditation and personnel resources is cost prohibitive for programs serving so few individuals.
- Maintenance of accreditation is too burdensome for very small FFA programs.

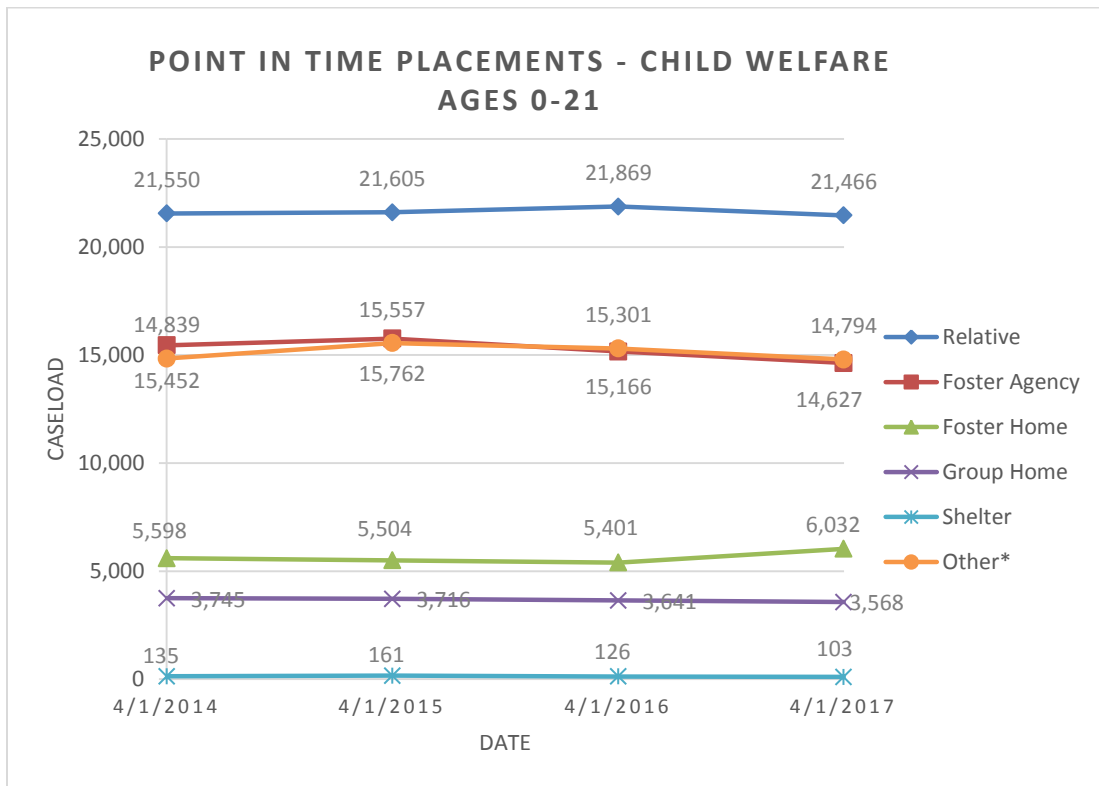
- Placement in these FFAs is typically voluntary and adoption is contrary to the wishes of the parents who place their children here.
- New (and sometimes conflicting) requirements may not be feasible for Family Home Providers to sustain, due in part to an abundance of pre-existing oversight.
- Expanding training requirements may lead to burnout and turnover for Family Home Providers who already receive relevant, individualized training for caring for individuals with significant behavioral and developmental deficits.

In response to these concerns, AB 404 (Stone, 2017) contains proposed amendments to the accreditation requirements in the Health and Safety Code to allow existing licensed and vendorized foster family agencies an additional year to meet the accreditation requirements, and to give the Department, county agencies, and the Legislature more time to explore the concerns raised by these agencies and work towards solutions or viable approaches in resolving the issues. It is important to note that the Department is only able to provide reimbursement funds for accreditation fees until July 2018, and a delay in these agencies starting the accreditation process may result in an inability to provide partial reimbursement for the costs associated with accreditation without an additional appropriation or an extension on funds available, if any remain at that time.

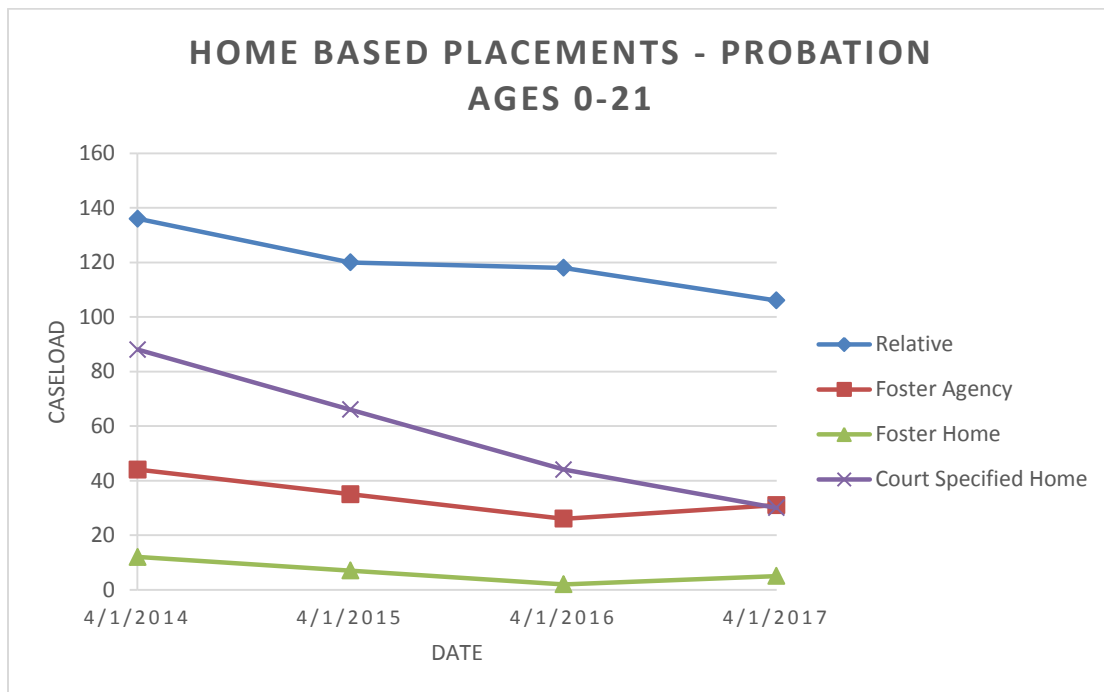
CHILD OUTCOMES

The following charts show the numbers of children, ages 0-21, in the identified placement type on April 1, 2014, through April 1, 2017. The data points represent point-in-time caseloads on an annual basis. Not all placements types are included; therefore, this does not equal the total foster care population. As CCR is targeting the reduction of congregate placements and movements to lower levels of care, those placements were included. The previous SRL report intended to establish a baseline period for statewide CCR implementation, although early implementation of RFA began prior to that date. As time progresses, it is theorized that an increase in Resource Family Home placements and a decrease in congregate care trends will emerge; however, due to the staggered implementation process of transitioning group homes to STRTPs, it will be difficult to discern the causal effects of CCR for some time.

For child welfare, there has been a slight decrease in relative placements (21,869 in 2016, 21,466 in 2017) in the past year, while group home placements have remained relatively stable over time. The decrease in relative placements may be explained by the transition to Resource Family Homes. Alternatively, there has been a significant increase in Resource Family Home placements, at 3,447 as of April 1, 2017 (not displayed). Child Welfare placement type usage continues to be fairly stable. Since 2014, probation has seen significant decreases in all placements, particularly in the relative and court-specified home categories. This corresponds to the 19% decrease in the total population of probation youth in foster care compared to only a 1.7% decrease in the child welfare population. According to a representative from CPOC, the decrease in the probation population, over the last several years, is largely attributed to an almost 50% reduction in all juvenile arrests since 2010, as well as the effectiveness of the recidivism reduction programs which means youth are not having subsequent arrests after successfully completing probation.



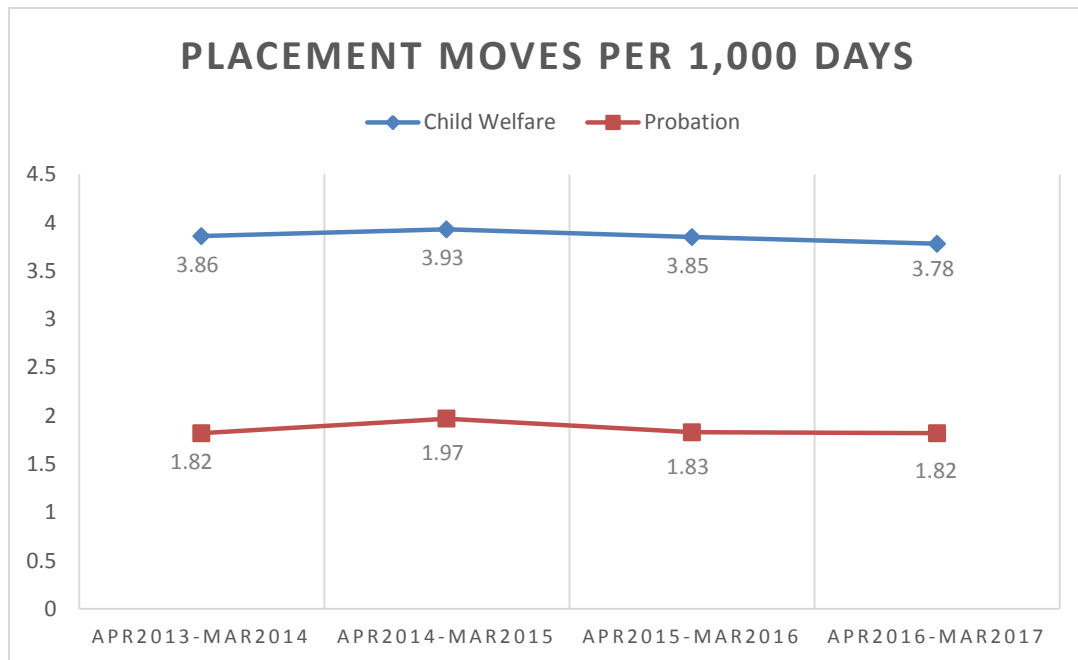
Data source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 2 extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley
 *Other: Pre-adopt, Court Specified Home, Non-FC, Runaway, Trial Home Visit, SILP, Transitional Housing, Other



Data source: Point in Time CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 1 extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley

Note: group home placement numbers for probation are displayed on page 24.

The following chart shows the average number of placement moves per child by agency per year. This is a federal measure. The federal compliance standard is 4.12. From calendar year 2014 to 2017 the average number of moves has remained relatively stable for both agencies.



Data source: CWS/CMS 2017 Quarter 1 extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley

The table below shows point in time data for STRTP placements, and group home placements by Rate Classification Level (RCL), stratified by age and race:

Point in Time: July 1, 2017											
Agency	RCL/ STRTP	Age			Total	Race					
		0-10	11-15	16-17		Asian/ PI	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Unknown
Child Welfare	5-9	24	108	113	245	4	72	97	6	65	1
	10-11	78	387	393	858	17	267	320	10	241	3
	12-14	226	957	753	1,936	41	614	799	14	465	3
	STRTP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CW Totals		328	1,452	1,259	3,039	62	953	1,216	30	771	7
Probation	5-9	0	7	13	20	0	6	6	0	8	0
	10-11	0	95	209	304	4	64	174	2	58	2
	12-14	0	224	518	742	9	180	412	5	130	6
	STRTP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prob. Totals		0	326	740	1,066	13	250	592	7	196	8
Totals		328	1,778	1,999	4,105	75	1,203	1,808	37	967	15

The following tables show placements for children who have been in a group home or STRTP for 365 of the last 400 days. The first three sections are group homes broken out by RCL, the last section is STRTP.

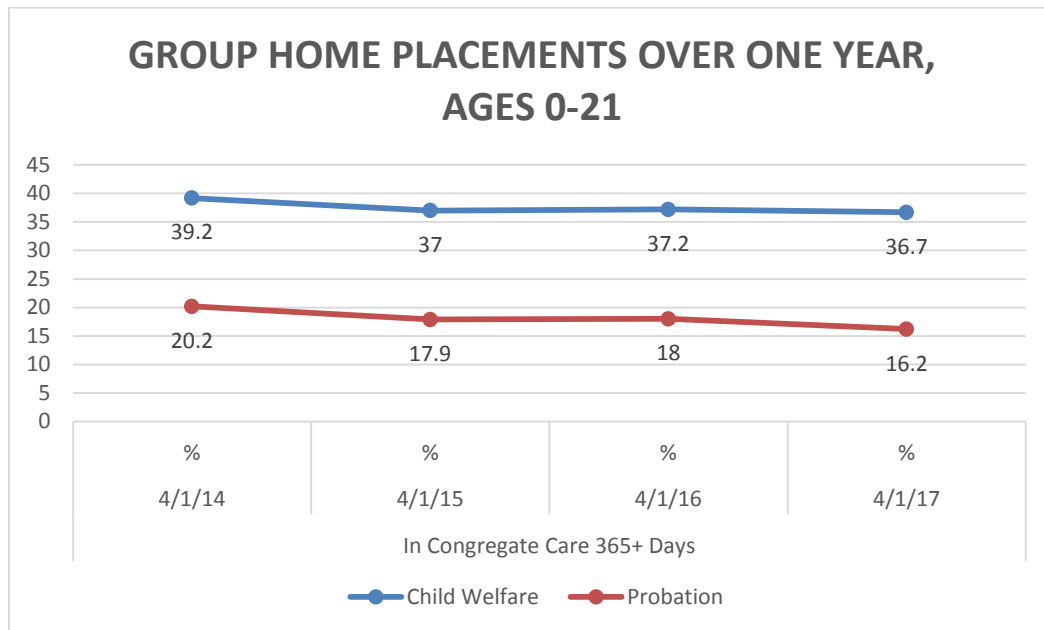
Stays Greater Than One Year, Point in Time: July 1, 2017										
RCL 5-9										
Agency	Age			Total	Race					
	0-10	11-15	16-17		Asian/ PI	Black	Hispanic	Native American	White	Unknown
Child Welfare	3	32	62	97	1	26	45	1	25	0
Probation	0	1	1	2						
Total	3	33	63	99	1	26	45	1	25	0
RCL 10-11										
Child Welfare	27	119	138	284	3	92	116	5	99	0
Probation	0	12	19	31						
Total	27	131	157	315	3	92	116	5	99	0
RCL 12-14										
Child Welfare	44	305	271	620	14	245	279	6	179	3
Probation	0	31	75	106						
Total	44	336	346	726	14	245	279	6	179	3

The following table shows point-in-time data of youth placed in an out-of-state group home by the state:

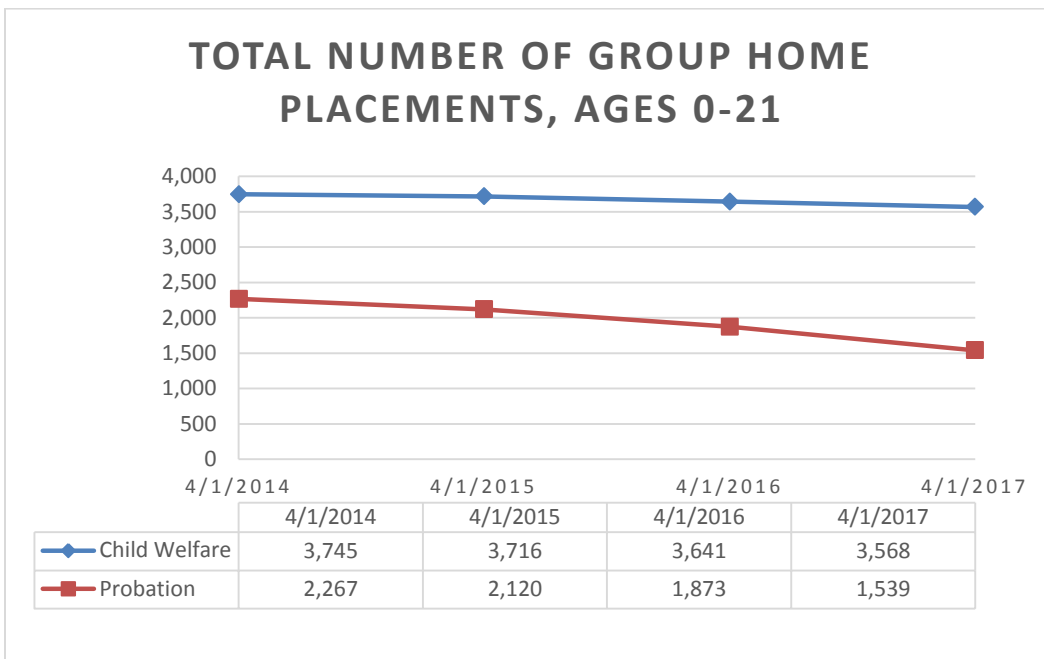
Out of State Placements by Calendar Year (CY) and Point in Time (PIT)												
	AZ	FL	IA	MI	NV	OR	PA	TX	UT	VA	WY	Total
CY	30	12	157	87	0	2	114	6	28	8	15	459
PIT	17	6	68	43	44	1	53	6	27	7	9	281

The chart below shows the percent of youth (0-21) placed in a group home on April 1, 2014 through April 1, 2017, who had been in a group home for at least one year, stratified by child welfare and probation placements. Since 2014, group home placements over one year have remained relatively stable for both agencies.

For total group home placements, the second chart, probation agencies are seeing a larger percent decrease (-32%) in group home placements than child welfare (-4.7%) since 2014. Probation has seen an overall decline of 34% of youth in foster care from 2014-2017. The decrease in child welfare group home placements is likely just a reflection of the normal fluctuations in population as it is looking only at one day of the year.



Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Quarter 4 extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley



Data source: CWS/CMS 2016 Quarter 4 extract, California Child Welfare Indicators Project, University of California at Berkeley

FISCAL UPDATE

UPDATES SINCE JUNE REPORT

- Probation fiscal claiming training scheduled for October 10, 2017.
- The [County Fiscal Letter \(CFL\) 16/17-76](#) released the final RFA allocation for Fiscal Year 2016-17.
- The [CFL 16/17-71](#) released the final allocation for Second Level Administration Reviews for Fiscal Year 2016-17.
- The 2018-19 Governor's Budget is currently under development and will be released January 2018

CCR RECONCILIATION

With the implementation of CCR, the counties were provided upfront General Fund investments for the new HBFC rates and administrative activities such as FPRRS, CFTs and RFA. It is anticipated that over time, assistance savings will be generated through group home cases moving to more family-like home based settings. A reconciliation process will be used to complete a thorough, by county analysis to determine if the level of savings realized will impact the level of the on-going investment amounts. The following provides updates to the reconciliation process:

- A county specific reconciliation process was developed and implemented starting in December 2016 with input from County Welfare Director's Association, and counties. The following letters have been released regarding CCR Reconciliation: [CFL 16-17-43](#), [ACL 17-07](#), and [CFL 16-17-60](#)
- By September/October 2018, CDSS will have enough expenditure data to reconcile the CCR assistance savings to the CCR new rates/administration costs, for each county, based on FY 2016-17 actual data.

COUNTY FISCAL LETTERS

The CCR CFLs are letters sent to counties to provide claiming instructions and funding amounts for CCR activities.

Policy Claiming:

- [CFL 15-16-48](#) Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program Claiming Instructions for County Probation Departments
- [CFL 15-16-37E](#) Errata to Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program
- [CFL 16-17-60](#) Continuum of Care Reconciliation Methodology for Zero Base Populations
- [CFL 16-17-43](#) Continuum of Care Reform Assistance Reconciliation Methodology
- [CFL 16-17-41](#) Continuum of Care Reform Home Based Family Care Rate Phase I Claiming Instructions
- [CFL 16-17-41E](#) Errata to Continuum of Care Reform Home Based Family Care Rate Phase I Claiming Instructions
- [CFL 16-17-41EII](#) Errata II to Continuum of Care Reform Home Based Family Care Rate Phase I Claiming Instructions
- [CFL 16-17-22](#) Child and Family Team Claiming Instructions
- [CFL 16-17-20](#) Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Funding Opportunity Child Care

Allocations:

- [CFL 16/17-76](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Final Continuum of Care Reform Resource Family Approval Program Allocation For County Welfare And Probation Departments
- [CFL 16-17-71](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Allocation for Continuum of Care Reform Second Level Administration Review
- [CFL 15-16-58](#) Fiscal Year 2015-16 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program Allocations for County Welfare and Probation Departments
- [CFL 16-17-54](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Continuum of Care Reform Foster Family Agency Social Worker Rate Increase General Fund Allocation
- [CFL 16-17-45](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Continuum of Care Reform Resource Family Approval Program Allocations for County Welfare and Probation Departments
- [CFL 16-17-35](#) Fiscal Year 2015-16 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program Planning Allocation

- [CFL 16-17-34](#) Fiscal Year 2016-17 Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support Program Allocations for County Welfare and Probation Departments
- [CFL 16-17-05](#) Fiscal Year 2015-16 Continuum of Care Reform Foster Family Agency Social Work Rate Increase General Fund Allocation

TRAINING

- Foster Parent Training continues to be offered through the Foster and Kinship Care Education (FKCE) Program with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- The Training Support Unit is still working to secure a vendor to provide online training for resource families statewide. This will provide unlimited 24-hour access to training for all families and will work in conjunction with FKCE
- DHCS and CDSS are in the process of establishing an MOU in order to draw down Title IV-E funding for training activities related to children's mental health services and/or activities related to supporting the Continuum of Care Reform. An initial draft MOU is under development and review with CDSS and DHCS. DHCS expects that an updated draft of this MOU will be available by July 31, 2017.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Here is a list of some of the CCR related meetings and presentations currently scheduled for the next few months. New meetings are added regularly. For a complete list of upcoming meetings, please visit the [CCR website](#).

Date	Location Type of Presentation	Audience	Host	Overview
9/21/17 3:00-5:00	Meeting CBHDA	CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, CPOC, CBHDA, CSAC, CDE	CDSS & CBHDA	State/County Implementation Team INVITATION ONLY
9/25/17 1:00-2:00	CCR Youth Satisfaction Survey Work Group	Stakeholders	CDSS	Development of the CCR Youth Satisfaction Survey
10/19/17 11:00-3:00	Meeting CBHDA	Committee Members	CBHDA	Children's System of Care Committee INVITATION ONLY
10/19/17 3:00-5:00	Meeting CBHDA	CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, CPOC, CBHDA, CSAC, CDE	CDSS& CBHDA	State/County Implementation Team INVITATION ONLY
11/16/17 11:00-3:00	Meeting CBHDA	Committee Members	CBHDA	Children's System of Care Committee INVITATION ONLY
11/16/17 3:00-5:00	Meeting CBHDA	CDSS, DHCS, CWDA, CPOC, CBHDA, CSAC, CDE	CDSS& CBHDA	State/County Implementation Team INVITATION ONLY
11/29/17 10:00-3:00	CDSS Auditorium	Stakeholders	CDSS	Stakeholder Implementation Advisory Committee

Date	Location Type of Presentation	Audience	Host	Overview
12/7/17 2:00-4:00	Meeting	Stakeholders	CIBHS	Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) Implementation Committee INVITATION ONLY